

## ABSTRACT

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a system and method for providing classification security in a database management system, in which the database management system operates cooperatively with an external classification engine. A classified table with declared interactions with the external classification engine is employed. A statement containing a request for access to data stored in the classified table is compiled into executable instructions. When these instructions are executed, the external classification engine is invoked that generates an indicator of whether a user is to be permitted access to data stored in each of one or more rows of the classified table, by comparing one or more classifications associated with the user to a classification derived from data stored in each respective row. The indicator is returned to the database management system and used to determine what rows of data are to be retrieved from the classified table.